

over the frontier with the ladies of the Palace who were in attendance, and gave audience of leave to all those who had accompanied her from Vienna and were about to return. All this was accomplished within an hour from the time of her arrival at Brauuau. She departed immediately for Munich, Augsburg, Stuttgart, C'arlsruhe, and Strashurg, and was received with great splendor at all the. Foreign Courts, and at Strashurg with great enthusiasm. So many hopes were interwoven with the marriage that her arrival was sincerely greeted by all.

The Emperor had gone as far as Compiègne to receive her, the Court being then at that residence. He. wrote, to her every day by a page, who went off at full speed with his letters, and an quickly brought back her replies. I recollect that the Emperor having dropped the envelope of the first letter, it was instantly picked up, and handed about the *tutlun* as a specimen of the handwriting of the Empress: the eagerness to see it was as great as if her portrait had been exhibited. The pages who came from her were tormented with questions. We had, in short, been transformed at once into courtiers as assiduous as our ancestors in the days of Louis XIV., and would scarcely have been taken for the men who had laid 80 many nations prostrate at their feet. The Emperor was no ICHH impatient than ourselves, and much more interested In knowing what more, peculiarly concerned him; he really appeared love-stricken, lie had ordered that the route of ihe Empress .should he by way of Nancy, Chalons, Kheims, and jSoissons, ami could almost point out, at any hour of the day, the progress she had then made.

On the day of her arrival the Emperor took his departure in a plain carriage, with no other attendant than the Crand Marshal, after giving his instructions to Marshal Hessieros, who remained at ('ompiègne. lie travelled on the road of Soissons and Khcims until he met the carriage of the Empress, which was suddenly stopped by his courier. The Emperor alighted, ran up to the door of the Kinprens's carriage, opened it himself, and stepped in. On perceiving th<\* astonishment of the Empress, who knew not the meaning of this abruptness in a Htranger, the Queen of Naples said to her, " Madame, it Is the Emperor."<sup>1</sup> He returned to Compiègne in their company.

Marshal Bessleres had ordered out all the cavalry quartered near the Palace, and advanced with it and with the general officers and th« Emperor's *aidctt dfi ramp* <>" ^ijk roBt ^ to SomsoriH an far an a wi'll-known fltom\* bridge, the name of which I do not rveollert; at. the Minus bridge Louis XV. had met the DaunhimwH, daughter of Maria Theratta, afterwards the unhappy yuec.ii of France.

The people of Comp&gne had micreeilcti in making their way to thft porch of the Palaeae, where they rang\*'I themneiv\*\*\* in u double line. The .Empress on her arrival wan received at the foot of the principal utalrcaiio by the mother and family of th« Kmprcor, th« whole Court, the Minister\*, and several personages of tht\* higlwitt rank. It Is auperfiuoiui to iarna the person who attracted the attention of every otic from the moment the